BRISTOL & BATH RAILWAY PATH

Welcome to the Path

Escape the traffic and explore this wonderful 13-mile off-road route that links the cities of Bristol and Bath. The Bristol & Bath Railway Path is a fully tarmaced, easily accessible route for walkers, cyclists and disabled people. Whether you fancy a leisurely stroll with friends, an encounter with wildlife or a refreshing journey to work, the Path has something to offer everyone.

This leaflet provides a great starting point for planning your visit. You will find a wealth of useful information about getting to the Path, refreshment stops and local attractions. Longer journeys or round trips can be created by following one of the many trails that cross the route. Join the Path wherever you like - look for the access points shown on the map.

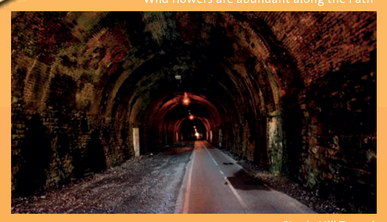
So what are you waiting for? Put on your walking shoes or get on your bike and enjoy the Bristol & Bath Railway Path!

For up to date information about the Path visit www.bristolbathrailwaypath.org.uk

Enjoying a stroll along the Path

The first section of this map has been enlarged to show the numerous access points more clearly.

Wild flowers are abundant along the Path



Staple Hill Tunnel

Saltford Marina

Distances along the path

Bristol city centre to St Phillips Rd
1 mile (1.5 kms)

Bristol (St Phillips Rd) to Fishponds
2.5 miles (4 kms)

Fishponds to Mangotsfield
2 miles (3 kms)

Mangotsfield to Warmley
1.5 miles (2.5 kms)

Warmley to Bitton
2.5 miles (4 kms)

Bitton to Saltford
2 miles (3 kms)

Saltford to Bath (Brassmill Lane)
3 miles (5 kms)

Brassmill Lane to Bath city centre
2 miles (3 kms)

'Avon Riverside' Station

'Sentinels 1' by Jim Paulsen

Mangotsfield Station window grills by Katy Hallett

Bitton Railway Station

KEY

- Railway Path
- Level access points with no lock
- Ramped or level access pointswith constricted access or steep gradient
- Access points with steps

note: cycle access does not necessarily imply a legal right of way for cyclists.

- Accessible W.C
- Water fountain
- West Bath Riverside Path
- River Avon Trail
- Other cycle path
- Footpath
- Horse Riding Route/Bridleway
- Railway
- Cycle Shop
- Cafe
- Picnic Site
- Pub
- 'Bristol Gateway' a new sculpture proposal for 2007/08

Attractions along the Path

Community Forest Park

This 45 mile circular path follows the Forest of Avon around Bristol. It connects to the Railway Path at Warmley and Oldland Common. For a free leaflet contact Forest of Avon: Tel: (0117) 953 2141 or visit www.forestofavon.org.uk

River Avon Trail

A 28 mile path following the River Avon from Pill in North Somerset to Bath, running along the Railway Path for a short section at Saltford. For a free leaflet, contact the Avon Frome Development Officer: Tel (0117) 922 4325 or visit www.riveravontrail.org.uk

The Dramway

This was the local name for the Avon & Gloucester Railway that carried coal from the Coalpit Heath Colliery to the River Avon. A way marked route runs between Coxgrove Hill and Bitton following a similar route to the Railway Path.

Willsbridge Mill Visitors Centre

A renovated mill set in woodland with nature trails. Access by bike from Bitton Station (along main road) or for walkers off School Road. Refreshments available.
Disabled parking at the Mill.
Tel: (0117) 932 6885 for more details or visit www.avonwildlifetrust.co.uk

Attractions along the Path

Bitton Railway station

Steam trains (accessible for wheelchairs) run here most Sundays, and the station is also open on Saturdays and Bank Holidays. The station has a cafe, toilets and bike parking.
Tel: (0117) 932 5538 for general enquires or (0117) 932 7296 for a 24 hour talking timetable or visit www.avonvalleyrailway.co.uk

Warmley Station

Refreshments available most weekends from Easter to September, also toilets including accessible toilets (with a RADAR lock).

Sculpture Trail

Local artists, some in conjunction with local schools, have created sculptures reflecting the character of the Path. A leaflet giving further information on the sculptures is available from Sustrans. Tel: (0845) 113 0065 for more details.

Saltford Brass Mill

A surviving example of a brass mill. Open second Saturday of the month 11am - 3pm during the summer months.
Tel: (0117) 986 2216 for more details.

River Avon and Beechen Cliff, Bath

Sculpture by Kevin Hughes

THE AVON FROME PARTNERSHIP

The Path was constructed on the track bed of the former Midland Railway which closed for passenger traffic at the end of the 1960's. Between 1979 and 1986 the railway line was converted into the Railway Path.

The first stretch to be converted was between Bath and Bitton where the campaign group, Cyclebag obtained planning permission to create a 2m wide dust track. The route then developed westwards with Bristol being the last section to be tarmaced from the outset. The path today is a three metre wide tarmaced surface from end to end.

Some of the former stations along the Path are still popular stopping points - see section 'Attractions along the Path' for further details. The Path is owned mostly by Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council. However small sections are owned by Sustrans.

NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

Railway Links

Temple Meads Railway Station is connected to the Railway Path via a bridge at Temple Quay which links to Avon Street.

Lawrence Hill Station is close to the path near the Bristol end.

Oldfield Park Station is near to West Bath Riverside Path that links the Railway Path with Bath City Centre. Bath Spa Station is not far from the end of the Riverside Path.

Keynsham Railway Station links to the Railway Path via a cycle path alongside the A4175 and a short section of main road (A431) to Bitton Station.

Buses

Buses stop near the path in both Bristol and Bath - for further information call Traveline (08706) 082 608

NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

- Only use the official access points onto the path to avoid erosion and damage to nature
- Keep dogs under control
- Dog fouling endangers childrens health. Always clean up after your dog
- Cyclists - please travel at a speed that is safe and considerate to other path users
- Cyclists - Use your bell to warn other users that you are approaching
- Everyone should use lights and light coloured clothing to be visable at night
- Look out for and be considerate to others
- Motorbikes are not allowed

The National Cycle Network is a Millennium Commission project supported by £43.5m of National Lottery funds. It involves over 400 local authorities, as well as businesses, landowners, environmental bodies and others.

The first 5000 miles of the Network was launched in June 2000 and a further 5000 miles was completed in 2005.

About a third of the Network will be entirely traffic - free, using old railway lines, canal towpaths, forestry tracks, riversides and urban spaces.

LOOK OUT FOR OTHER USERS

One national route of the NCN uses the Railway Path. Route 4, connecting South Wales and Reading and the South-east, uses the whole length of the Railway Path and Regional Route 10 (Avon Cycleway) takes in part of the Path to Saltford.

For more information on the National Cycle Network please contact Sustrans on (0845) 113 0065 or visit their website: www.sustrans.org.uk

Sustrans runs a national voluntary ranger scheme. Path Rangers monitor the coherence and quality of the signing, and do what they can to ensure that the Network is pleasant and safe for its users, such as reporting potential dangers and obstructions. Voluntary rangers operate on the Bristol and Bath Railway Path.

For more information on this scheme contact Sustrans (0845) 113 0065

GETTING ON TO THE PATH

The Avon Frome Partnership develops projects that focus on improving local heritage, landscape, recreation and wildlife in the Avon and Frome Valleys between Bristol and the edge of the Cotswold Hills. Community participation forms an important part of these projects.

The Avon Frome Partnership is core funded by Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council. It employs a full-time Development Officer.

The Bristol and Bath Railway Path is a priority for the Avon Frome Partnership which co-ordinates two working groups that regularly bring together all the organisations and user groups involved with the Path.

The Partnership's aspirations for the Path are outlined in the Avon Frome Strategy 2007-2017 which is updated annually.

For further information please contact the Avon Frome Partnership (0117) 922 4325

PATH HISTORY

Avon Valley Markers by Katy Young

This leaflet is also available in other formats:- audio tape, braille, and disk, tel: 0117 922 4325

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South Gloucestershire Council · AVON FROME PARTNERSHIP · BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET · BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

USEFUL INFORMATION

For maintenance problems please contact:

St Phillips Road to Railway Terrace
Bristol City Council Parks and Estates.
(0117) 922 3719

Railway Terrace to River Avon Bridge, Bitton
South Gloucestershire Council.
(01454) 868 000

River Avon Bridge, Bitton to Brassmill Lane, Bath. Council Connect (01225) 394 041

To report criminal activity call Police

Bristol 0845 456 700
For general enquires about the Bristol and Bath Railway Path please contact the Avon Frome Development Officer.
(0117) 922 4325

Cycle Hire

Mud Dock Cycleworks & Bike Shed, Bristol
(0117) 929 2151

Blackboy Hill Cycles (0117) 973 1420

Horse Riding

The branch from Mangotsfield Station has a 1.1km section from Shortwood to Coxgrove Hill which is the only section of the path open to horse riders.
This forms part of a circular ride in the Shortwood area and links with the 'Round Avon Horse Riding route'.

For further information call
South Gloucestershire Council
(01454) 863 646

OTHER CYCLE LEAFLETS

Avon Cycleway

An 85 mile circular route taking in the Avon Gorge, Chew Valley and the Severn Estuary. The Avon Cycleway follows the Railway Path from Saltford to Mangotsfield.

Leaflets are available from Life Cycle UK
86 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB
Tel: (0117) 929 0440 or visit
www.lifecycle.org.uk

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

There are a variety of different access points on the Railway Path. All level access controls will allow the majority of wheelchairs and pushchairs through.
However, some at present can be difficult to negotiate with an electric scooter.

There are four main categories of access:

- No access controls and with level or ramped access
- Motorcycle barriers with level or ramped access
- Steps

The details below are for the major access points onto the Railway Path. It is by no means a definitive list. For more details contact any of the numbers on the right.

Bristol end of the Path - St Phillips

No barriers, level access, dropped kerb. There are no barriers on most accesses within Bristol.

Morrisons, Fishponds

Three access points, all with motorcycle barriers and dropped kerbs. There is access onto the Railway Path from Hockeys Lane.

Warmley (Old Station)

Motorcycle barriers on both the north and south entrances to the Path.
Disabled parking and toilet are available.

ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Bitton Station

Level access with controls on the path towards Warmley and Bath allows ease of use for the disabled. Disabled parking.

Saltford

Level, unrestricted access form Avon Lane with drop off point.

End of Path - Brassmill Lane, Bath

Open access on slope. Dropped kerb.
Advice on disabled persons access onto the Railway Path from:

Bristol City Council Access Hotline (0117) 903 6840

South Gloucestershire Council (01454) 863 640

Bath and North East Somerset Council Pedestrian and Cycle Officer (01225) 394 049

For more information about access for disabled people call:

Bristol Shopmobility (0117) 922 6342

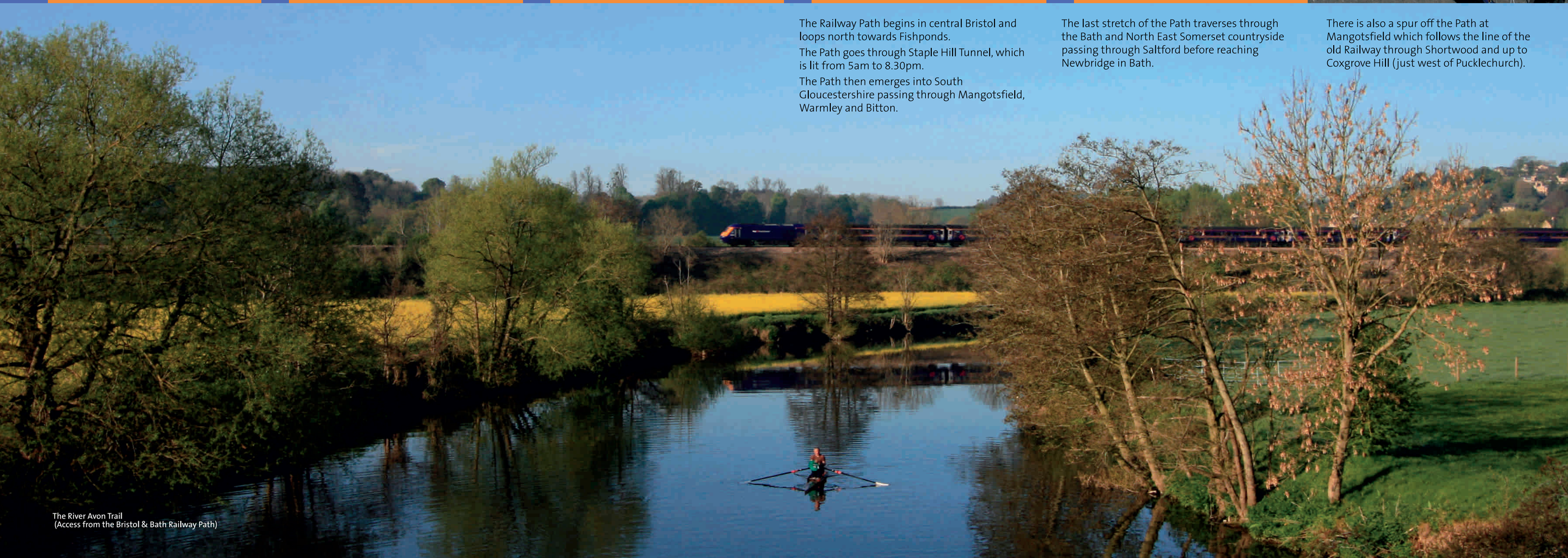
Bath Shopmobility (01225) 481 744
(01225) 481 773

Do you have any comments on how access to the Railway Path could be improved?

The Avon Frome Development Officer would be pleased to hear from you to incorporate your comments into an ongoing access audit of the Path.

The Development officer can be contacted on (0117) 922 4325

BRISTOL & BATH RAILWAY PATH



The River Avon Trail
(Access from the Bristol & Bath Railway Path)

The Railway Path begins in central Bristol and loops north towards Fishponds.

The Path goes through Staple Hill Tunnel, which is lit from 5am to 8.30pm.

The Path then emerges into South Gloucestershire passing through Mangotsfield, Warmley and Bitton.

The last stretch of the Path traverses through the Bath and North East Somerset countryside passing through Saltford before reaching Newbridge in Bath.

There is also a spur off the Path at Mangotsfield which follows the line of the old Railway through Shortwood and up to Coxgrove Hill (just west of Pucklechurch).